Holiday Safety Tips for Businesses

The holiday season is one of more customers, longer hours, new employees, and higher revenue for businesses. This can result in the potential for increased opportunities for crime to occur, including robberies, burglaries and thefts. We hope that the following tips can deter crime from your business during this busy shopping season.

- Ensure an uncluttered and well-lit view of the sales area from the outside. Minimize curtains, posters, advertisements, and decorations from windows and entrances.

- Staff should have an unobstructed view of customers and merchandise from their workstations, and they should know the proper procedure if they spot a shoplifter.

- Mirrors allow staff to monitor blind-spots, however, they should not be positioned where customers can view behind counters or cash registers.

- Staff should be trained to recognize counterfeit currency, credit cards, and false identification, as well as what to do when presented with these items.

- Installing electronic funds-transfer equipment enables the business to accept ATM and credit cards, prevents bad checks and reduces the amount of cash on the premises.

- Excess cash should be transferred from the cash register frequently, and cash registers should be emptied every night.

- Staff should be trained on proper money-handling procedures, including counting money in a secure area out of the view of customers and passers-by.

- Visitors, including suppliers and delivery personnel, should always be escorted while on the premises, especially in staff-only areas.

- Staff should have a safe place to store their purses and personal effects, such as locking desk drawers or lockers in a secured area.

- Surveillance cameras should be serviced and maintained regularly.

- Parking lots should be well-lit and maintained to ensure customer safety.

- The Business Watch Program provides free security inspection of businesses and provides the Police with your after-hours contact information. Call (562) 570-7274 for more information.